

From: KarenD Johnson/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 12/30/2011 6:42:47 AM
To: Robert Helverson/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
CC:
Subject: Re: Final ATSDR Record of Activity - Technical Assistance (AROA-TA) Document for Dimock Groundwater Site

Thanks Robert- I'm dropping the newest Cabot reports on your desk this morning that we got copied from DEP. Two of the key volumes are also scanned into the L Drive for Dimock that you set up.

Karen D. Johnson, Chief
Ground Water & Enforcement Branch

From: Robert Helverson/R3/USEPA/US
To: Richard Fetzer/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Richard Rupert/R3/USEPA/US, Ann DiDonato/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Jon Capacasa/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
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Date: 12/29/2011 03:26 PM
Subject: Final ATSDR Record of Activity - Technical Assistance (AROA-TA) Document for Dimock Groundwater Site

Good Afternoon OSCs DiDonato, Fetzer, and Rupert,

Today, ATSDR finalized its AROA-TA for the Dimock Groundwater Site, evaluating the available Dimock private well data from a potability perspective. I have excerpted the conclusions and recommendations from the full document and included in the text below. The full document is attached. This document is the initial step in our activities related to the Dimock Groundwater Site. ATSDR will continue to develop a full Health Consultation for the site based on all of the available data.

Note, this is the final document. Lora Werner has provided verbal concurrence and will sign the document upon return from her all-too-often-interrupted family holiday this week.

[attachment "Final Dimock AROA-HC 12292011.PDF" deleted by KarenD Johnson/R3/USEPA/US]

Conclusions

These sample results indicate that there is a possible chronic public health threat based on prolonged use of the water from at least some of these wells - assuming future exposure to these contaminants at these concentrations is not reduced. Based on the potential quality control issues, a potential health threat for the remaining wells cannot be disregarded. Additional characterization of the groundwater quality and a thorough review of any changes in concentration over time are indicated.

There are important data gaps for evaluating water quality in private wells that have been assessed and un-assessed in the site area. Further evaluation of all potentially impacted private wells in the site area and of treatment systems in use is needed.

Recommendations

ATSDR supports a "Do Not Use Until Further Notice" action regarding the private wells sampled to date at this site until the site can be characterized further. Distribution of alternative residential water supplies should be considered until potential exposures are further understood and mitigated as needed.

ATSDR and NCEH recommend that further sampling be conducted by EPA to ensure the highest quality sampling methodology possible, including appropriate quality assurance samples. Next steps, if implemented, should be focused on areas of primary concern delineated by EPA or the appropriate agency. Further sampling plans should consider a full set of appropriate inorganic, organic, and bacteriological (total and fecal) constituents.

A full public health evaluation should be conducted on the data from the site area. Because many of these compounds (e.g., metals) affect the same organ systems, ATSDR recommends evaluating the mixture for public health impacts using computational techniques or other suitable methods to evaluate the potential for synergistic actions. The cumulative concentration of all dissolved combustible gases should be considered to protect against the buildup of explosive atmospheres in all wells in the area.

Public Health Action Plan

ATSDR Division of Regional Operations in consultation with ATSDR/NCEH Headquarters has begun drafting a full health consultation on the available data set for the Dimock site, including Cabot, PADEP, and residents' consultant-collected samples over the past 2 years. ATSDR will review any follow up environmental monitoring being considered by EPA to assess current community exposures at the site and will continue to coordinate data reviews with Federal and Commonwealth public health and environmental authorities.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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